

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2551) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise today to urge all of my colleagues to support the Bishop amendment to H.R. 2551, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2012. This amendment would restore \$1 million in funding to the Capitol Police to provide support for security upgrades to Congressional District offices as recommended by the House Sergeant at Arms earlier this year.

Most members, particularly members from rural districts with more than one district office, will undertake a variety of "security" upgrades and improvements to their local offices as a result of the tragic shooting of Rep. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS and related security threats.

Coupled with the costs of these new upgrades are reductions in the Members' Representational Allowance MRA for the second year in a row. This includes the 5 percent reduction in MRA in place for Fiscal Year 2011 and the proposed 6.4 percent reduction in MRA proposed in the Fiscal Year 2012 Legislative Branch Appropriations bill, which will be considered on the floor this week. The Fiscal Year 2012 proposed reduction in MRA will result in an average hit of approximately \$95,000 per office, which will likely pose a severe strain on Member budgets. Additionally, you should know that security upgrades and improvements to Senate District offices will not be paid through MRA's.

My amendment would simply provide an additional \$1 million in funding via the Capitol Police for security improvements for those offices impacted by new House security policy. The proposed offset comes from the "Transition Activities" account, which essentially provides funding for furniture and related equipment for Freshman members, which of course, should be minimal in Fiscal Year 2012.

Mr. Chair, it would be our intent, that if this amendment is accepted by this House, that the Sergeant at Arms, Capitol Police, members of our Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee and other pertinent House personnel, would work together to devise an effective plan and strategy for the use, approval and disbursement of these funds for district office security purposes.

The pressure and demands which we already have in managing our MRA's are great, and will be more difficult in the coming year. So it is vitally important that we provide Members of this body some financial relief for the costs of district office security improvements.

While the Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee has the smallest budget of the thirteen Appropriations Subcommittees, and some would say that it is the least glamorous, its work is of vital importance to the entire nation.

As most of you know, the Subcommittee is responsible for the protection and preservation

of the treasures in the U.S. Capitol and the Library of Congress, the publishing and dissemination of government information by the Government Printing Office, the objective analysis of our budget and economic decisions by the Congressional Budget Office, and the resources with which we provide representation to our constituents.

However, our collective effectiveness in representing our constituents is potentially at risk given the proposed reductions in our MRA's.

And I would like to remind my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, that after the tragic shootings in Tucson, Members were "strongly encouraged" to provide additional security for themselves, their staff and their constituents in the district—to be paid out of Members' accounts, with possibly some help from the Sergeant at Arms.

With this bill's cut of 6.4 percent in Members' Representational Allowance, combined with the 10 percent in the Sergeant at Arms budget, these improvements in security will be difficult.

Finally, if the Capitol Police are going to assess more threats against Members and take a more active role in district security, then their budget should also reflect these increased demands instead of being frozen.

Mr. Chair, I would also like to enter into the RECORD, a copy of an article that ran in Roll Call, highlighting the need for enhanced safety advancements for Members of Congress, their staffs, and constituencies.

I would ask that you support this important amendment. Thank you for your consideration.

[From Roll Call, July 21, 2011]

CUTS TO SERGEANT-AT-ARMS RAISE CONCERNS
FOR SOME

(By Daniel Newhauser)

After the shooting of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords (D-Ariz.) in January, Members began looking into ways to secure their district offices. Now, some Democrats are questioning whether House leaders will give them enough money to do so.

Members' Representational Allowances and the House Sergeant-at-Arms office face budget cuts, while House appropriators have proposed flat funding for the Capitol Police.

At a Rules Committee hearing Wednesday to set parameters for this week's floor debate on the legislative branch spending bill, Rep. Jared Polis—who said he received threats as recently as last week—singled out those cuts as his main concern.

"Security is hardly a luxury," the Colorado Democrat said. "How can you justify cutting the Sergeant-at-Arms by 10 percent?"

Although the Sergeant-at-Arms' budget appears larger than it was last Congress, the increase actually comes because it was combined with the Office of Emergency Management, which was created after 9/11 to assist in emergency planning. That office was flat-funded, while the Sergeant-at-Arms received an \$890,000 cut.

Rep. Ander Crenshaw, chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch, assured Polis that the reduction would not affect security. In an interview before the hearing, the Florida Republican said administrative employees and equipment purchases would most likely take the hit.

"We made sure that none of the cuts to this office were going to affect any kind of safety issues," he said.

After the Giffords shooting, the Sergeant-at-Arms offered Members free ADT Security assessments in the district offices. The House Administration Committee also au-

thorized Members to use their MRAs to pay for suggested security enhancements.

But between the 5 percent MRA cut of last fiscal year and the 6.4 percent cut proposed for fiscal 2012—a reduction that would average about \$80,000 per office—Members might be put in a situation where they have to choose to fire one employee in order to afford to protect the rest, some Democrats argued.

"We are told that we need to secure our district offices more—for our safety, the safety of our staff and, most importantly, the safety of our constituents," said Rep. Mike Honda (D-Calif.), the subcommittee's ranking member, in a statement. "How are we supposed to pay for that?"

Rep. G.K. Butterfield said he had planned to install bulletproof glass and a digital combination keypad lock at his North Carolina district office, but now he's not so sure.

"That was the plan. Now that we've got this dramatic cut, I don't know what we're going to do," the Democrat said.

Rep. Sanford Bishop said he's skeptical Members will be left with enough money in their MRAs to pay for the upgrades. He was advised to improve lighting and create a barrier between his Georgia offices' public and work areas.

"The security assessments that the Sergeant-at-Arms paid for for all of our offices were very, very telling. But to implement the recommendations for the safety of our constituents and Members and staffs, it's going to cost some funds," the Democrat said. "The MRA is not sufficient."

Bishop has proposed an amendment to the legislative branch bill that would reassign \$1 million from a fund used to assist freshmen in procuring furniture to create a fund within the Capitol Police to assist in paying for district security upgrades.

Sergeant-at-Arms spokeswoman Kern Hanley said that no matter where the budget ends up, the agency would "be able to fully execute our security mission" and that they will help Members efficiently spend their money.

"We will coordinate the provision of professional security assistance to Members by conducting surveys and reviewing office selection options, security systems and policies to aid them in achieving the best value for their security dollars spent," Hanley said in an email.

Republicans said that is the real lesson of the budget cut: Do more with less.

Rep. Michael Grimm, a former FBI agent, said Members can mitigate the security impact of the cuts by raising their awareness when they are at home.

"We have to be a little more efficient but also a little more diligent so the Capitol Police has less work," the New York Republican said. "None of that costs money."

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND
SERVICE OF EDWARD LEITNER
ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great joy and honor that I rise to wish Edward Leitner a very happy birthday as he turns 100 years old today. Edward, a resident of Westbrook, Connecticut, is a veteran of World War II and a shining example of this country's Greatest Generation. I had the opportunity to meet Edward last month at a barbeque culminating Wounded Warriors week—an important,

seven-day event honoring the sacrifice of heroes like Edward—sponsored by the Connecticut and Westbrook Elks.

Edward was born in New York City on July 27, 1911. In 1920, he and his family moved to the Pond Meadow region of Westbrook where Edward's father had bought a farm. After graduating from the Pond Meadow School—a one-room schoolhouse still standing today—Edward left home at a young age. He went on to work at a variety of different jobs. He worked in a candy factory, held a construction job on the Merit Parkway, and worked for the railroad.

An automotive mechanic by occupation, Edward was inducted into the Army on November 30, 1942. He served as a member of the 100th Infantry Division, 398th Regiment, which put him in the thick of operations across Central Europe, including Germany. The 398th led the way at Heilbronn, Vosges Mountains, and the Battle of the Bulge. To this day, his family proudly recalls hearing about Mr. Leitner's central role in some of the war's most historic and epic battles. Edward, who earned several decorations and positive citations in the Army, was honorably discharged in March of 1946.

Edward's family describes him as their hero. They say he is a guy who can fix anything and do anything—and he has. Edward, for his brave and historic service to this great Nation, is my hero too. Mr. Leitner, despite his extraordinary story and experiences is an unassuming, down to earth gentleman who is a pleasure to meet and an example to us all. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in wishing Edward Leitner a happy 100th birthday and thanking him for his great service.

SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM EXTENSION AND REFORM ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for reauthorizing the Small Business Administration, which helps countless entrepreneurs receive the training and access the capital they need to start and expand small businesses and create jobs. While I support the reauthorization of these vital programs, I am concerned with provisions in the underlying bill that would prevent some entrepreneurs from obtaining vital assistance.

Specifically, H.R. 2608 singles out the e200 Emerging Leaders program for elimination, which targets entrepreneurs in underserved communities across the country like metro Detroit that have been severely impacted in these tough economic times. This program targets businesses in inner cities and economically hard-hit areas that show a high potential for growth, providing them with the network, know-how and resources they need to build a sustainable, growing business that promotes economic development within their communities. This program has a proven track record. Small businesses that complete the program increase their revenues and create jobs where they are needed most.

In addition to eliminating this vital program, this bill prevents the Small Business Administration from carrying out any succeeding pro-

gram with similar goals. While I support the underlying reauthorization of the Small Business Administration, I strongly disagree with the elimination of the e200 Emerging Leaders program, and the prohibition of future initiatives that help small businesses thrive in some of the areas hardest hit by the recession.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2684) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I rise to oppose the underlying bill and the numerous extreme, anti-environmental riders included therein.

I rise to oppose the underlying bill and the numerous extreme, anti-environmental riders included therein.

Mr. Chair, this bill is full of anti-environmental riders. These riders are legislative provisions that were attached to an appropriations bill because they are far too extreme to pass Congress on their own merits. Together, these riders undermine decades of progress protecting our nation's environmental heritage. They threaten the air we breath and the water we drink.

One of the riders in this bill stops the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, from giving Clean Water Act protection to critical headwaters and streams that supply drinking water to about 117 million Americans.

Another rider prevents the EPA from updating its stormwater discharge regulations to manage polluted stormwater runoff, which contaminates water supplies and contributes to beach closures. Last year was the second highest year on record for beach closings and advisories.

Yet another rider changes current law to eliminate requirements for chemical companies to obtain permits for pesticides entering rivers and streams. This will mean even more of these toxic poisons in our lakes, rivers, fishing places, and drinking water supplies.

The Cross-State Air Pollution rider prohibits EPA from implementing a rule to protect communities from pollution caused by power plants upwind of them. EPA estimates that this rule will prevent up to 34,000 premature deaths, 15,000 heart attacks, 400,000 cases of aggravated asthma, and 1.8 million sick days a year beginning in 2014.

The Mercury and Air Toxics rider blocks EPA from finalizing a rule reducing emissions of mercury and other toxics from power plants. EPA estimates that this rule could deliver as much as \$140 billion in health benefits and prevent 17,000 premature deaths each year.

The Cement Kilns rider prohibits EPA from enforcing limits on emissions of mercury, particulate matter, and hydrochloric acid from cement kilns. These limits would reduce mercury pollution and fine particulate matter from cement kilns by 92 percent, preventing up to

2,500 premature deaths and avoiding 17,000 cases of aggravated asthma each year.

Finally, the Offshore Drilling rider allows oil companies to pollute more by exempting support vessels involved in offshore oil drilling from regulation. This provision undermines the ability of the EPA to ensure that oil drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf proceeds safely, responsibly, and with opportunities for stakeholder input. We've already seen from the BP oil spill how dangerous offshore oil drilling can be.

On top of all of these dangerous riders, this bill slashes funding for the EPA by 18 percent below the 2011 level, in addition to the 16 percent cut that was inflicted on the agency when compared to the 2010 level. These cuts would leave the Environmental Protection Agency unable to effectively regulate pollution or protect public health, even when it is not prevented from doing so by an anti-environmental rider.

This entire bill is a threat to our public lands and our public health, and I urge my colleagues to vote against it.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES T. MALLOY

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant James T. Malloy who served as the last Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives, a man I'm proud to have called a mentor and friend.

Americans knew him as the bellowing voice we'd be waiting for at the start of the annual State of the Union address; the voice that would yell over the hundreds assembled in the House chamber, "Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States." That first introduction came for President Gerald Ford in 1975 only a few weeks after his appointment.

I was privileged to know the man behind the voice, the man who mentored hundreds of members of Congress and staffers who passed through his doorway and the man who was beloved by everyone in this chamber.

Jimmy was incredibly helpful to me when I first came to Congress 24 years ago. He provided a good listening ear and sage advice. Put simply he was an extraordinary human being and he had no bigger fans than those of us from Western New York.

As the proud son of a South Buffalo firefighter, he put Buffalo on the map on a daily basis.

One of Buffalo's other proud sons, Tim Russert, described Jimmy as "a good man, who knew everybody and was always proud of taking care of his own."

"I'll accept that, I like that," Jimmy responded when he heard the description with the humility that personified his rustbelt roots.

In 1994, Jim's last duty was to introduce the new Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich. Since then, there's been no Doorkeeper of the House. I believe no one could possibly follow him. He has been missed in this House and will certainly be remembered fondly by everyone that knew him. He made Buffalo proud and the lives he touched richer. For that, we are all thankful.